

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-12, 15-16 and 25-32 will be pending in the application.

Status of Claims:

No claims have been amended. In the previously-filed response, 'new' claims 13, 14 and 17-24 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Listing of Claims:

In the Office Action, it was asserted that the claims included in the previously-filed response were not proper, since "all new claims should be totally underlined every time they are submitted." Accordingly, all of the presently pending new claims (15, 16 and 25-32) are included in the Claims section of this Amendment and Reply, whereby those presently pending new claims are totally underlined. Note that "A" has been changed to "The" at the beginning of claim 25, to conform to the other claims.

Rejection of Claims Based on Defective Reissue Declaration:

In the Office Action, claims 1-12, 15, 16 and 25-32 were rejected as being based upon a defective reissue declaration under 35 U.S.C. Section 251. Applicants appreciate that the Office Action included a form PTO/SB/51S which includes acceptable language for overcoming this rejection. Accordingly, a PTO/SB/51S form, signed by all of the inventors, is included with this Amendment and Reply.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that this application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would advance prosecution of the application, however, he or she is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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